

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). An apparatus for processing multimedia programs comprising:

an input port used to receive a multimedia program;

separator coupled to said input port and adapted to selectively separate said multimedia program to generate corresponding multimedia output signals and an audio signal; [and]

a processor that processes said audio signal to generate a digital signal in a format that can be received and played by a digital audio player; and

an audio output stage adapted to [generate an output signal from] output said audio digital signal.

2 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port is adapted to receive a broadband multimedia program.

3 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said input port includes a media reader.

4 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said input port includes a DVD reader.

5 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said separator is adapted to generate output signals including an audio and a video component.

6 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said separator is adapted to generate output signals including a multichannel audio signal.

7 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said [audio output stage] processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal into a stereo channel audio signal.

8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said [audio output stage] processor further includes a compressor that [compressor] compresses said stereo channel audio signal into a compressed digital output signal.

9 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said compressor compresses said stereo channel audio signal using an MPEG standard.

10 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said compressor compresses said stereo channel using an ATRAC standard.

11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). An apparatus for generating a multimedia output and an audio output from a distributed network comprising:

a broadband input port adapted to receive a multimedia program from the network;

a data storage adapted to store said multimedia program;

a controller adapted to receive selections from a user and to generate commands responsive to said selections;

a separator responsive to said commands and adapted to selectively separate said multimedia program into one of a multimedia output signal and an audio signal;
[and]

a processor processing said audio signal to generate a digital output signal formatted for reproduction by a digital audio reproduction device; and

an audio output stage [adapted generate an output signal from said audio signal] outputting said digital output signal.

12 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said multimedia program is compressed and wherein said separator is adapted to decompress said multimedia program.

13 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said multimedia program is compressed using an MPEG protocol and wherein said decoder is adapted to use said MPEG protocol to decode said multimedia program.

14 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). The apparatus of claim 11 wherein audio signal is a

multichannel audio signal; and wherein said [audio output stage] processor includes a folder circuit adapted to fold said multichannel audio signal, and an encoder adapted to encode the folded audio signal using a standard compression protocol.

15 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said encoder is adapted to encoded said folded audio signal using an MPEG protocol.

16 (ORIGINAL). The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said encoder is adapted to encode said folded audio signal using an ATRAC protocol.

17 (CURRENTLY AMENDED). A method of processing a multimedia program comprising the steps of:

- receiving said multimedia program;
- selectively separating said multimedia program into at least one of a multimedia output signal and an audio signal; [and]
- processing said audio signal to generate a digital output signal compatible with a digital audio reproduction device; and
- outputting said digital audio signal.

18 (RENUMBERED AND CURRENTLY AMENDED). The method of claim [18] 17 wherein said multimedia program is received electronically from a distribution network, further comprising storing said multimedia program.

19 (RENUMBERED AND CURRENTLY AMENDED). The method of claim [18] 17 wherein said multimedia program is compressed using an MPEG protocol further comprising decompressing said multimedia program using the MPEG protocol to generate one of said multimedia output signal and said audio signal.

20 (RENUMBERED AND CURRENTLY AMENDED). The method of claim [18] 17 wherein said audio signal is a multichannel audio signal, further comprising folding said multichannel audio signal into a stereo audio signal and compressing said stereo audio signal to generate said digital output signal.

21 (NEW). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor further includes a compressor that compresses said audio signal into a compressed digital output signal.

22 (NEW). The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said compressor compresses said audio signal using an MPEG standard.

23 (NEW). The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said compressor compresses said audio signal using an ATRAC standard.

24 (NEW). The method of claim 17 further comprising transferring said digital output signal to a digital audio reproduction device.